

MISCELLANY

Items for the News column must be furnished by the twentieth of the preceding month. Under this department are grouped: Comment on Current and Recent Articles in the Journal; News; Medical Economics; Correspondence; Department of Public Health; California Board of Medical Examiners; and Twenty-Five Years Ago. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Extension of New York Polyclinic.—The New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital announces that it has started wrecking the four buildings adjoining the hospital, and will erect a ten-story building for an out-patient department, transferring the clinical space in its present building to the new building, thereby enlarging its wards so that it can take care of another 150 ward patients for teaching purposes.

The Polyclinic Hospital maintains one of the largest out-patient departments in New York City. The enormous growth of New York City in this central district served by the polyclinic has made it absolutely essential that it provide increased quarters for its clinical work.

The new building will be devoted to postgraduate teaching and will be fully equipped for all branches of medicine and surgery.

Fifth International Congress of Physiotherapy.—International Congress of Physiotherapy will meet at Liege from the 4th to the 8th of September, 1930.

The Congress will be presided over by Professor Gunzburg and Professor De Munter, who have already received recognition by twenty foreign committees.

The important questions proposed are: (a) Rheumatism and physiotherapy treatment. Papers by Professors Gunzburg for Belgium, Van Breemen for Holland, Wierzejewsky for Poland. (b) Affections of the Central Nervous System and Physiotherapy. Paper by Doctor Delherm for France.

Acceptance may be sent from now on to Doctor Dubois-Trepagne, Secretary-General, 25 Louvrex Street, Liege, Belgium, with the dues of 150 Belgium francs. This will facilitate the organization of a Congress which will be noteworthy among the sessions of 1930.

Exhibition of Portraits of Physicians and of Scientists in the Medical History Room at the Lane Library, December 2-14, 1929. A large collection of line engravings, etchings, lithographs, mezzotint portraits of illustrious medical men and of those responsible for the development of modern science. From the collection of Professor Herbert M. Evans and William J. Kerr, M. D., of the University of California.

Fire at the University of California Hospital.—That the fire which occurred in the x-ray department of the University Hospital last month was not a sad repetition of the Cleveland disaster was entirely due to the precautions which had been taken immediately thereafter to prevent such possible recurrence. Only films in use during any one day are kept in the x-ray department. All others are stored in an outside fire-proof storage vault. Provision also had been made for a free ingress of air in the event of fire, which would permit proper oxidation and thereby avoid the possibility of explosion with consequent liberation of deadly gases.

The fire at the University of California Hospital was simply a fire—there was no explosion of any sort.

Dr. Lionel Schmitt, Acting Dean of the University of California Medical School, states that even the possibility of fire will be eliminated hereafter by the use of non-inflammable films, which, it is hoped, in the near future will be so perfected as to equal in value the present inflammable films.

The criticism that followed the lurid newspaper account of the occurrence makes it advisable to

apprise members of the profession of the actual facts in this case, that the undue fear instilled in the minds of patients of a possible fire hazard in hospitals may be intelligently combated.

Committee of Revision of the Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America 1920-1930.—The extent of present day use of deleted Pharmacopoeial drugs is one of those decennial questions which always causes some discussion when the time for a new Pharmacopoeia approaches. A number of efforts have been made in the past to secure exact facts upon which to base correct judgments for the U. S. P. scope and again an appeal is made to physicians, for help in making such a study.

Copies of a questionnaire, indicating the opinions of physicians concerning medicinal products which are official in the last revisions of the U. S. P. will be g'adly sent by the chairman of the Committee of Revision to anyone who is interested. Write E. Fullerton Cook, 636 South Franklin Square, Philadelphia, Pa.

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject of Following Letter: Vienna Clinics

Vienna, Austria,
October 24, 1929.

To the Editors.

California and Western Medicine.

A brief review of some of the activities of the Vienna clinics will probably be of interest to the readers of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. The postwar vicissitudes this poor country has experienced have not apparently decreased the importance of Vienna as a great medical center. Visiting it for the first time since the war, I had anticipated defects in organization, as compared to the smoothly running machinery I had observed in prewar periods. Such was not the case, however. The various institutions which go to make up the Vienna Medical School are all apparently functioning normally, and, save for evidences here and there of economy in administration, seem to be working with the same efficiency as they did before the war. The vast amount of clinical material is bewildering. The Allgemeines Krankenhaus, with its two thousand beds, is but the nucleus of material. With the affiliated institutions, such as the Allgemeine Polyclinic, the Heart Station, the medical, gynecological, and nose and throat clinics near by, and further from the center, the Franz Josef Spital, the Jubiläums Spital, the Kinder Kranken Institute, the Wilhelminen Spital, and many others too numerous to mention, is presented a clinical mass of about twenty thousand beds for teaching purposes. In addition to this, the Landenstatten Am Steinhof (Hospital for the Insane) four thousand beds, and the seven thousand beds of the Home for the aged, supply ample material for pathological teaching.

It will thus be seen that pathological material for teaching purposes is very great. Vienna has always afforded exceptional facilities for the study of pathology. Frankl's course at the Frauen Klinik is most comprehensive, as he is the foremost man in Central Europe in his field; large numbers attend his classes.

Erdheim, at the Jubiläums Spital, is a teacher in pathology of rare ability. He has been active in the department of pathology here for twenty-eight years, and has collected a mass of records and statistics unequaled elsewhere in the world. It is estimated that his experience covers approximately eighty thousand

autopsies, and his records, being well kept, the statistics are most valuable.

The Pathological Institute has perhaps the finest collection of pathological specimens to be found in the world. It consists of between 5000 and 10,000 specimens, some of them dating back one hundred years.

Of the clinics for internal medicine, the Wenckebach Clinic is probably most famous for its work in the field of cardiovascular diseases. Wenckebach, himself, a leader in the field of cardiology, has gathered a brilliant coterie of men in his department. Scherf, a young man of thirty years, yet one of the keenest cardiologists I have ever met; Porges, Hitzenger, Elias, are all clinicians of great ability, and rare diagnostic acumen. The personnel of this department is somewhat depressed at present because of the loss of their chief, Wenckebach, who retired from teaching work on October 1. At the present writing the name of his successor has not been announced.

The clinic of Professor Luger (formerly of Peter Bent Bingham Hospital in Boston) in the Ortner Clinic is very popular with Americans, as is, of course, the Chrostek and Kovacs clinics. Kovacs is probably one of the most brilliant of the teachers in internal medicine. At the Heart Station the work of Dressler engages the attention of a great many American students. His demonstrations are well presented both in clinical cardiology and electrocardiography.

In this same institution the brilliant fluoroscopy of the heart by Rosler must be mentioned. He is a man of rare ability, deservedly popular as a teacher. He has a wonderful collection of films illustrating congenital hearts, and his interpretations of the screen picture are most interesting and instructive. No less should be also said of Zdansky in the Wenckebach Clinic, in the x-ray examinations of chests.

The chief work in tuberculosis is found at the Wilhelminen Spital in the clinic of Professor Neumann. There abundant opportunity is afforded the student to study the methods of Neumann, who is the outstanding man in this department of medicine in Vienna. The principles underlying the treatment of tuberculosis are the same here as elsewhere, except that there is a much greater appreciation of the value of tuberculin in therapy than exists in the clinics and among the practitioners of the United States. Artificial pneumothorax is freely employed, and frequently in quite early cases. Phrenectomy is employed to a great extent. Thoracoplasty is not very much used. Neumann does not favor it because of the very high attendant mortality. The "lungenplombe" operation, revived by Denk, now in Graz, and Hauke of Breslau, has found an enthusiastic advocate in Neumann.

This operation consists in resection of the second rib in the interscapular space, separation of the parietal pleura from the thoracic wall, and extrapleural compression by means of a paraffin mass. I have seen cavitation extending throughout the upper lobe satisfactorily compressed by this means. Its advantage over the extensive thoracoplasty consists in a mortality which is practically nil, and the fact that remaining functioning lung tissue is not permanently made useless, as is the case with the more formidable surgical procedure. It is rather interesting and significant that, when in Berlin two months ago, I found the "lungenplombe" operation much in use at the Sauerbouch Clinic.

This rather sketchy review of the clinical facilities of the Vienna school reveals the fact that abundant opportunity is presented to the postgraduate for study. Is this wealth of material being used to the best advantage? Much of it is the usual material presented to the casual medical man—presented largely by instructors who have learned enough in English to be understood by their classes; and when I say the casual medical man, I am clothing with the mantle of charity the qualifications of a considerable number of Americans at the Vienna school. A great many of these courses are very elementary, and much of the really scientific work is entirely overlooked by those who are apparently here to "brush up." For instance

I spent yesterday morning with Doctor Hitzenger, of the Wenckebach Clinic, who is carrying on, under a grant from the Ella Sachs Fund, a most interesting research on the gas content of the venous and arterial blood in cardiovascular diseases. I was the only American present!

By this I do not mean that thorough work is not being done by a great many earnest, well-trained men who come here to do conscientious work. There are large numbers of such men here, and the experience of such men under the influence of the Vienna school has greatly enriched American medicine in the past.

There is much to be done in the way of better organization of the work for presentation to the postgraduate. This the American Medical Association of Vienna is now trying to do by the arrangement of intensive courses in the various departments of medicine, which arrangements, when completed, can be announced at home to prospective visitors through the medium of our medical journals.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE H. EVANS.

Subject of Following Letter: Los Angeles "Wine Tonic" Ordinance

Los Angeles,

November 7, 1929.

To the Editors:

Herewith find copy of a recent so-called wine tonic ordinance passed by the city council of Los Angeles, and in the same or modified form now up for consideration before the councils of several other California cities. On its face the ordinance would seem to be a violation of professional rights of physicians, since no exemption is made for prescriptions of any kind. The ordinance should be of interest to the many physicians who believe that professional rights should be protected and is worthy of perusal by all physicians. The ordinance as passed is enclosed.

Very truly,

WILLIAM DUFFIELD, M. D.

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Ordinance No. 65,112

An ordinance prohibiting the sale of wine tonics in the city of Los Angeles.

The people of the city of Los Angeles do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Definition—Wine Tonics: The phrase "wine tonics" shall mean and include any tonic or any medicinal preparation containing one-half of one per cent or more of alcohol by volume, which is capable of being used as a beverage.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell, serve or give away within the city of Los Angeles any wine tonic or wine tonics, as defined in Section 1 hereof.

Section 3. That any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not to exceed Five Hundred (\$500) Dollars, or imprisonment in the city jail for a period of not exceeding six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Every such person, firm or corporation shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each violation of any provision of this ordinance which is committed, continued or permitted by such person, firm or corporation, and shall be punishable therefor as provided by this ordinance.

Section 4. The city clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and cause the same to be published once in the Los Angeles *Daily Journal*.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was introduced at the meeting of the council of the city of Los Angeles of October 16, 1929, and was passed at its meeting of October 23, 1929.

ROBT. DOMINGUEZ,

City Clerk.

Approved this twenty-fourth day of October, 1929.

JOHN C. PORTER,

Mayor.